

Appl. No. 10/674,179  
Amdt. dated 10/05/2005  
Reply to Office action of 07/05/2005

### REMARKS

Claims 1-34 are pending in this case. Claims 23-25 are rejected. Claims 26-28 are objected to as dependent from a rejected base claim. Claims 1-22 and 29-34 are allowed.

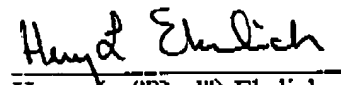
Base claim 23 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Van Steenwyk et al., US 6,188,223. Applicant respectfully amends claim 23 to include the limitation in claim 27, now canceled, to clarify that the method of claim 23 is conducted while drilling a well with an oil-based mud. Applicant respectfully submits that claims 1-26 and 28-34 are in condition for allowance.

Applicant respectfully requests that the rejections and objections be withdrawn and that a Notice of Allowance be mailed.

Respectfully submitted,  
WINSTEAD SECHREST & MINICK P.C.

October 5, 2005  
DATE

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